Hugh Sullivan

INTERSTATE MONITORING ISSUES
NATIONAL MONITORING NETWORK
FOR
U.S. COASTAL WATERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
National Monitoring Network

• Background
• Management Questions
• Design Features
• Plan Elements
• Regional Network Goals
• Benefits
National Monitoring Network Background

- U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy recommended building the network
  - An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century, Chapter 15
- National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan charged the NWQMC with implementing the NMN design.
- Original NMN Design directed the Network to address a variety of water quality issues.
  - Due to budgetary constraints, the NMN focus has been narrowed to addressing nutrient issues.
Management Questions

• What is the condition of the Nation’s coastal waters?
• Where, how and why are water quality conditions changing?
• Are protection strategies working?
• Are management strategies helping coastal water bodies to meet water quality goals and standards?
NMN Design Features

• A Network of Networks linking inland, coastal and ocean monitoring data
  – Comparable and quality-controlled data across regions and resource compartments
  – Common data collection parameters and approaches
  – Includes data management and access
• Allows both fixed station and statistical designs
• Builds upon existing programs
NMN Plan Elements

• Promote new sensor technologies
• Increase data accessibility
• Promote links between freshwater and coastal nutrient models
• How can the NMN design help to address water-quality issues in select estuaries?
  – Demonstration studies
    • San Francisco Bay
    • Delaware Estuary
    • Lake Michigan
    • Albemarle-Pamlico
    • Puget Sound
NMNs Goals for Regional Networks

• Assess data gaps
  – How will they be addressed?

• Adopt data sharing standards to make data available through WQP
  – Water Quality eXchange (WQX)
    • Used by 400 federal, state, Tribal and other partners to share discrete water quality data
    • Enables participation on EPA/USGS Water Quality Portal
  – WaterML2 (under development)
    • International hydrological time-series data standard
    • Being explored as a potential tool for sharing real-time water quality monitoring data in the U.S.

• Share innovative monitoring tools
Benefits of NMN Participation

• Connections to other water quality professionals
  – Helpful for learning how they address data gaps
• Assistance in meeting data sharing standards
• Central Point for access to data
  – WQX for discrete data now available
  – WaterML2 for access to continuous monitoring – under development
National Monitoring Network Co-Chair

Contact Information

- Dennis Apeti
  - Dennis.Apeti@noaa.gov
  - 301–713–3028 ext. 132

- Greg Piniak
  - Greg.Piniak@noaa.gov
  - 301–713–3028 ext. 115

- Dan Sullivan
  - djsulliv@usgs.gov
  - 608–821–3869

- Hugh Sullivan
  - Sullivan.Hugh@epa.gov
  - 202–564–1763